1: McGee E-5 (1894-1895)1898 NU31 Seri NU31

those so fully described by Hough,[1] and serves to explain the otherwise obscure genesis of the fire-sense, which must have accompanied and shaped that most significant of all steps in human progress, the conquest of fire.

The modern coordinate of the Seri arrow is the bow, made preferably from a straight and slender branch of the palo blanco. A typical specimen is illustrated in plate XXX; it is 4 feet 9½ inches long, with the outer face convex and the inner face flat; greatest width 1¼ inches, narrowed to 1¼ inches at the hand-hold; thickness at the hand-hold 1 inch, thinning to five-eighths inch at 8 inches from this point; tapering gradually in both dimensions toward the extremities, which are rudely notched to receive the cord (of mesquite-root fiber). The specimen illustrated has been cracked and repaired in two places; in one place the repair was effected by a rough wrapping of sinew, and in the other by slipping over the wood a natural sheath of rawhide from the leg of a deer. The specimen is of added interest in that it combines bow and nether fire-stick ("Strong-Kind-Mother"), one of the friction holes being worn out to the notched margin, and the other remaining in usable condition, as shown in the enlarged marginal drawing.[2]

Compared with the delicately finished and graceful arrow, the typical bow is a rude and clumsy device; it displays little skill in the selection and shaping of material, and evidently involves little labor in manufacture—indeed, the indications are that more actual labor is spent in the construction of a single arrow than in the making of a bow, while the arrow-making is expert work, betokening craft of a high order, and the bow-making little more than simple handiwork of the lowest order. The comparison affords some indication of the genesis of Seri archery, and at the same time corroborates the independent suggestion that the arrow is of so much greater antiquity than the bow as to represent a distinct stage in cultural development—though the precise cultural significance of the bow is not easily ascertained.

Efforts were made to have different Seri warriors at Costa Rica in 1894 assume the normal archery attitude, with but moderate success, the best pose obtained (illustrated in plate XXVIII) being manifestly unnatural and a mere reflection of the attitude in the mind of the Caucasian poser; while the results of inquiries served only to indicate that the normal archery attitude was purposely avoided for reasons not ascertained. Fortunately another observer was more successful: in the course of the United States hydrographic surveys in 1873, Commander (now Admiral) Dewey received several visits from Seri warriors on board the *Narragansett*; and on the occasion of one of those visits, Mr Hector von Hayer, of the hydrographic party, caught a photograph of an archer in the act of drawing his bow. The negative was accident-

[1] Fire-making apparatus in the U. S. National Museum; Sixth Annual Report for 1888, pp. 11, 1889, pp. 531-545, and elsewhere.

[2] Ordinarily the nether fire-stick is of soft and porous wood, Sonora palo-verde and water-logged pine being preferred.

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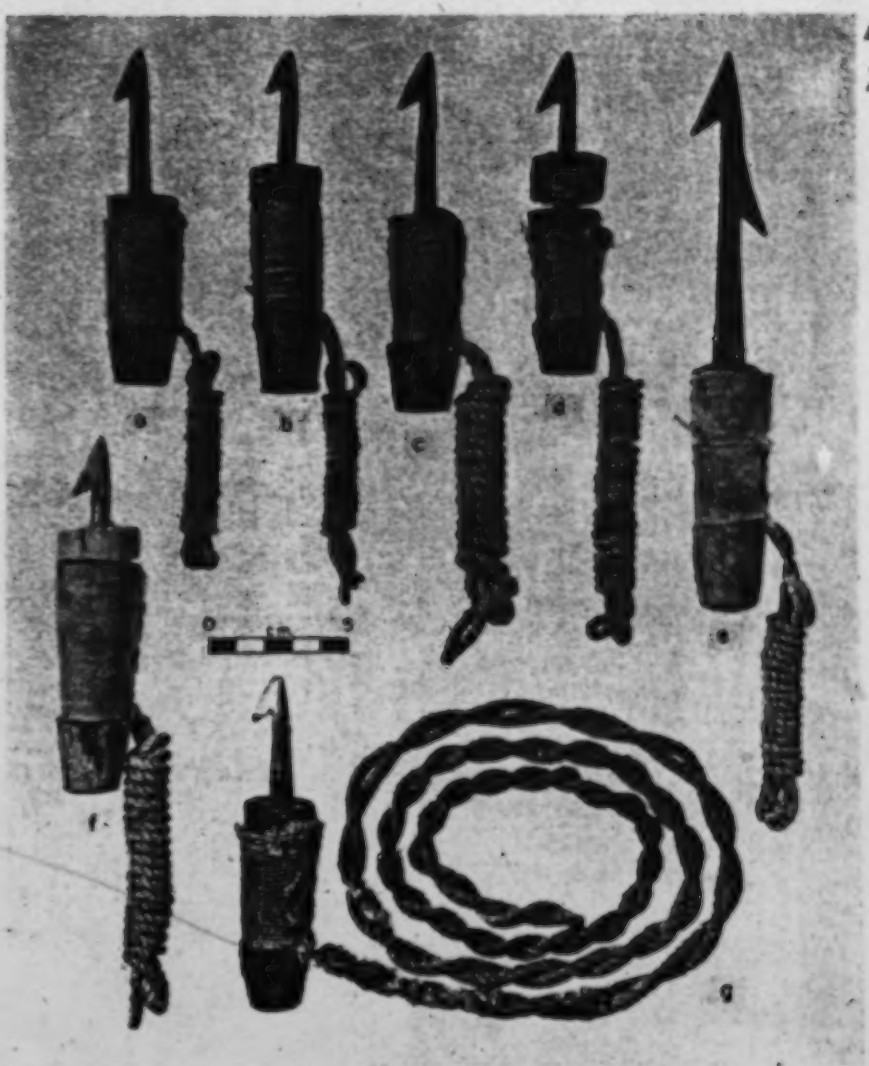

PLATE I: FORESHAFTS MANUFACTURED BY SEVEN SERI FISHERMEN
(see Table 1 for specifications) A

[facing page 364]

A [Table 1 is on page 367, category 116: Analyst]

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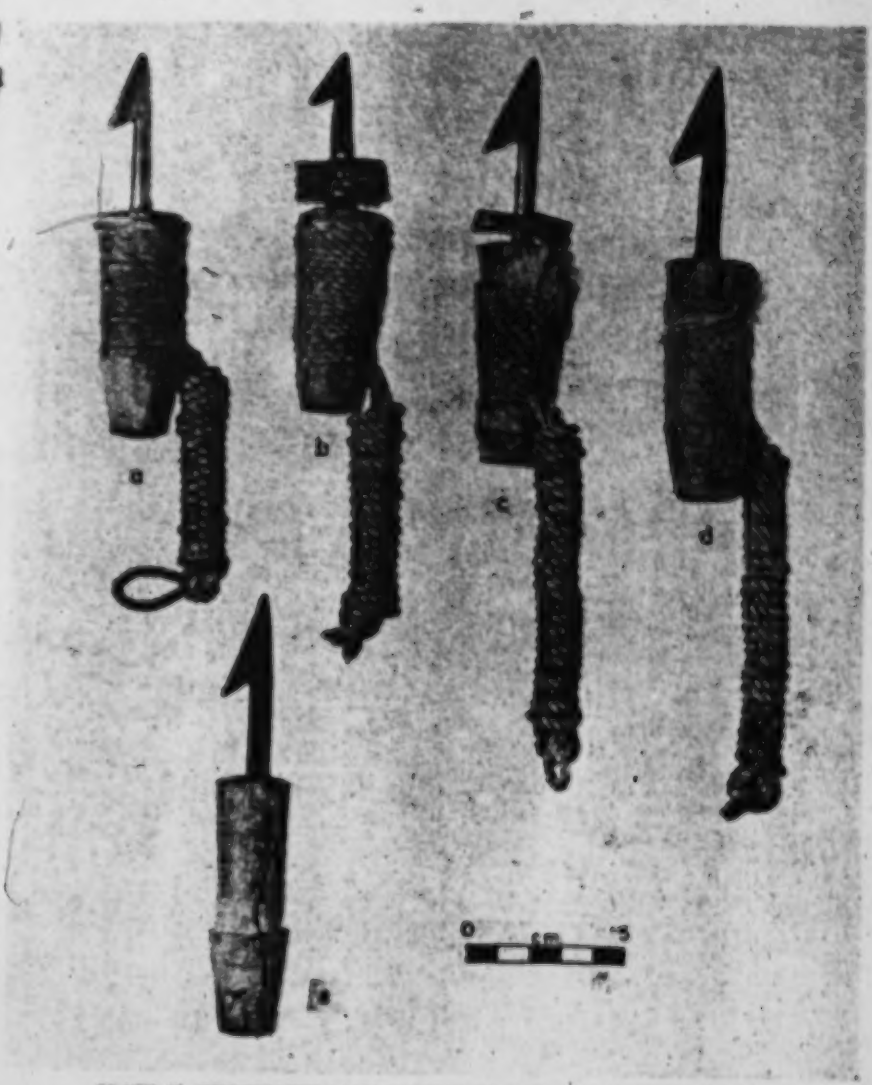

PLATE II: FORESHAFTS MANUFACTURED BY ONE SERI FISHERMAN, FRANCISCO BARNETT

(see Table 1 for specifications)

[Table 1 is on page 367, category 116.- Analyst]

[Facing page 365]